

REMARKS

The following remarks are to replace the remarks submitted with the Amendment mailed September 11, 2002. The claim numbering used in the previous remarks did not correspond to the claims included in that amendment. Applicant apologizes for any confusion the earlier remarks may cause.

The above amendments to claims 12, 19, 29, 33, and 35 are simply to remove inadvertent repetitions of the word "wherein." These amendments should have no impact on the patentability of these claims.

Replacement Remarks:

In the Amendment mailed September 11, 2002, claims 1-11 were canceled and new claims 12-35 were added. No new subject matter was added. Support for the amendments to the disclosure and the new claims is found throughout the specification as currently on file.

More particularly, support for claims 12, 18, and 24 is found in claims 1-3, pages 2-4 and 6-7, and figures 1, 9, and 19 of the specification. Support for claim 13 is found at page 16 (lines 5-10) of the specification. Support for claim 15 is found at page 19 (lines 5-22) of the specification. Support for claim 17 is found at page 10 (lines 9-19), page 23 (lines 17-22) and figures 1 and 19 of the specification. Support for claims 19 and 20 is found at page 13 (lines 29-30), page 14 and figures 9-13 of the specification. Support for claims 14 and 16 is found at page 11 (lines 5-30) and figures 9-11 of the specification. Support for claim 22 is found at page 4 (lines 6-9), page 6 (lines 12-16)

and figure 1 of the specification. Support for claim 23 is found at page 4 (lines 6-9), page 6 (lines 12-16), figure 1, page 11 (lines 5-30) and figures 9-11 of the specification. Support for claims 24-35 is generally found at claims 1-3, pages 2-4 and 6-7, and figures 1, 9, and 19 of the specification. Further support for claims 26-29 and 32-35 is found at page 16 (lines 5-10) of the specification. Further support for claims 28, 29, 34 and 35 is found at page 19 (lines 5-22) of the specification. Further support for claims 30-35 is found at page 10 (lines 9-19), page 23 (lines 17-22) and figures 1 and 19 of the specification. Further support for claims 21, 23, 25, 27, 29, 31, 33 and 35 is found at page 11 (lines 5-30) and figures 9-11 of the specification.

Claims 12, 17, and 24-35 recite a "lift action control mechanism", support for this element is found at page 23 (lines 17-19) of the specification. Claims 19 and 20 recite a "sensing plate locking arm", support for this element is found at page 13 (lines 29-30) and page 14 (lines 1-3) of the specification.

Accordingly, claims 12-35 are presently pending, and favorable reconsideration thereof is respectfully requested. Claims 12 and 18 are the only independent claims. We note that the present claims correspond to the claims, which were the subject of a favorable International Preliminary Examination Report issued by the European Patent Office on a corresponding PCT application.



Rejection Under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph

Claims 1-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. The Examiner indicates that claims 1-10 are indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the applicant regards as the invention.

To expedite prosecution, claims 1-11 were canceled and replaced with claims 12-35. Applicants respectfully request that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112 second paragraph, be withdrawn.

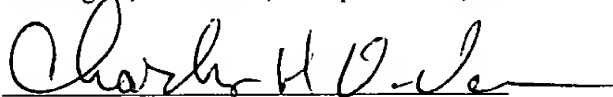
End of replacement Remarks

As required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.121, applicants have provided a separate marked-up version of the amended claims showing the changes relative to the previous version of those claims (attached).

The above amendments and remarks are believed to address fully the Examiner's rejections, and place the application in condition for allowance. A prompt indication of the same respectfully is requested. The Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned if any issues remain that may be resolved by a telephonic interview.

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on September 13, 2002.

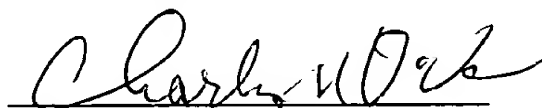


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Date of Signature: September 13, 2002



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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the Claims:

Please amend claims 12, 19, 29, 33, and 35, as follows.

12. (Amended) A loading apparatus for mounting a movable frame on a stationary frame, wherein;

there is an elevatable support member mounted on the stationary frame, the elevatable support member having a first end portion and a second end portion, the second end portion of the elevatable support being mounted to the stationary frame for pivotal movement with respect to the stationary frame about an elevatable support axis to provide an adjustable angle of the elevatable support;[wherein] and

a lift action control mechanism mounted on the stationary frame cooperates with the elevatable support member to modulate movement of the elevatable support about the elevatable support axis;

characterized in that:

a drive is co-axially arranged with the elevatable support about the elevatable support axis; the drive is adapted for connection with the moveable frame, so that the drive may slidably move the moveable frame onto and off of the elevatable support and the stationary frame, while the lift action control mechanism permits the angle of the elevatable support to

adapt about the elevatable support axis so that the elevatable support slidingly engages the movable frame.

19. (Amended) The loading apparatus of claim 18, wherein;
the locking system further comprises a sensing plate locking arm adapted to contact the
movable shoe arm to lock the movable shoe arm into position to keep the
flexible connector in engagement with the drive[, wherein]; and
the sensing plate locking arm is movable by the movement of the movable frame, when
driven by the drive, to displace the sensing plate locking arm to release the
movable shoe arm so that the movable shoe arm may be displaced by the
movable frame to release the flexible connector from the drive.

29. (Amended) The loading apparatus of any one of claims 18 through
20, for mounting the movable frame on the stationary frame comprising:

a) an elevatable support member mounted on the stationary
frame, the elevatable support member having a first end portion and a second end portion,
the second end portion of the elevatable support being mounted to the stationary frame
for pivotal movement with respect to the stationary frame about an elevatable support
axis to provide an adjustable angle of the elevatable support;

b) a drive cooperating with the stationary frame and adapted for connection with the movable frame, so that the drive may slidably move the movable frame onto and off of the elevatable support and the stationary frame; and

c) a lift action control mechanism mounted on the stationary frame cooperating with the elevatable support member to modulate movement of the elevatable support about the elevatable support axis while permitting the angle of the elevatable support to adapt so that the elevatable support slidingly engages the movable frame;

d) wherein:

[wherein]the flexible connector is a chain and the drive comprises a sprocket that engages the chain; and

movement of the movable frame powered by the drive adapts the angle of the elevatable support so that the elevatable support slidingly engages the movable frame; and

there is an interconnection between the elevatable support and the moveable frame, during sliding movement of the movable frame, so that the movable frame adapts the angle of the elevatable support through the interconnection.

33. (Amended) The loading apparatus of any one of claims 18 through 20, for mounting the movable frame on the stationary frame comprising:

a) an elevatable support member mounted on the stationary frame, the elevatable support member having a first end portion and a second end portion, the second end portion of the elevatable support being mounted to the stationary frame for pivotal movement with respect to the stationary frame about an elevatable support axis to provide an adjustable angle of the elevatable support;

b) a drive cooperating with the stationary frame and adapted for connection with the movable frame, so that the drive may slidably move the movable frame onto and off of the elevatable support and the stationary frame; and,

c) a lift action control mechanism mounted on the stationary frame cooperating with the elevatable support member to modulate movement of the elevatable support about the elevatable support axis while permitting the angle of the elevatable support to adapt so that the elevatable support slidingly engages the movable frame;

d) wherein:

[wherein]the flexible connector is a chain and the drive comprises a sprocket that engages the chain;

movement of the movable frame powered by the drive adapts the angle of the elevatable support so that the elevatable support slidingly engages the movable frame; and

the lift action control mechanism is powered to control the movement of first end portion of the elevatable support member towards a raised position

and to control movement of the first end portion of the elevatable support towards a lowered position.

35. (Amended) The loading apparatus of any one of claims 18 through 20, for mounting the movable frame on the stationary frame comprising:

a) an elevatable support member mounted on the stationary frame, the elevatable support member having a first end portion and a second end portion, the second end portion of the elevatable support being mounted to the stationary frame for pivotal movement with respect to the stationary frame about an elevatable support axis to provide an adjustable angle of the elevatable support;

b) a drive cooperating with the stationary frame and adapted for connection with the movable frame, so that the drive may slidably move the movable frame onto and off of the elevatable support and the stationary frame; and,

c) a lift action control mechanism mounted on the stationary frame cooperating with the elevatable support member to modulate movement of the elevatable support about the elevatable support axis while permitting the angle of the elevatable support to adapt so that the elevatable support slidingly engages the movable frame;

d) wherein:

[wherein]the flexible connector is a chain and the drive comprises a sprocket that engages the chain; and

movement of the movable frame powered by the drive adapts the angle of the elevatable support so that the elevatable support slidingly engages the movable frame;

there is an interconnection between the elevatable support and the moveable frame, during sliding movement of the movable frame, so that the movable frame adapts the angle of the elevatable support through the interconnection; and

the lift action control mechanism is powered to control the movement of first end portion of the elevatable support member towards a raised position and to control movement of the first end portion of the elevatable support towards a lowered position.